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GAIN Report

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Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

TH1048 Export prices of white rice declined by 1-2 percent despite continued strengthening of the Thai baht to 29.91/\$. Some quotations of Thai white rice were \$5/MT below Vietnamese rice due to tight supplies of Vietnamese rice, as the Vietnamese are in demand trying to fulfill their outstanding contracts.

Post:
Bangkok

Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Apr 18, 2011

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	975	-	900	-	930	905	-	928	945
WR 100 B	485	-	500	-	500	500	490	495	503
PB 100%	505	-	515	-	505	505	500	506	504
PB 5%	500	-	510	-	500	500	495	501	499
WR 5%	475	-	480	-	480	480	480	479	486
WR 10%	470	-	465	-	475	475	-	471	477
WR 15%	465	-	450	-	-	470	-	462	465
WR 25%	445	-	-	-	-	450	-	448	450
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	400	-	425	-	420	410	-	414	407
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 29.91 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Export prices of white rice declined by 1-2 percent despite continued strengthening of the Thai baht to 29.91/\$ compared to 29.95 baht/\$ in the previous week. Some quotations of Thai white rice were \$5/MT below Vietnamese rice due to tight supplies of Vietnamese rice as the Vietnamese are in demand trying to fulfill their outstanding contracts, particularly to the Philippines. Foreign buyers are making enquiries for Thai white rice but they still have not placed orders. Meanwhile, parboiled rice prices increased slightly by 0.4 percent driven by orders from Nigeria. In addition, the delivery of a Government-to-Government contract of 200,000 tons of 5% grade parboiled rice to Bangladesh began last week and will be completed by the middle of May 2011.

The government's weekly benchmark price for white rice for April 18-24, 2011 increased 0.7 percent. As such farmers will receive lower compensation compared to the previous week. Farmers that sell their supplies this week will be able to arbitrage as market prices are slightly above the benchmark prices.

Table 2: Price Insurance Scheme for MY2009/2010 - MY2010/2011 rice crop

	Rice paddy				
	Fragrant rice (Bha/ton) ^a	Provincial fragrant rice	Rathum fragrant rice	Glutinous rice	White rice
1. Eligible tonnage (ton/household)	14	16	30 ^c	30 ^c	30 ^c
2. Insured prices (Bht/ton) ^d	15,300	14,300	11,500	10,000	11,000
3. Benchmark prices (Bht/ton) ^{e,f}					
Mar 21-27	12,538	12,195	10,128	15,182	8,467
Mar 28 - Apr 3	13,019	11,810	9,936	14,973	8,310
Apr 4-10	-	11,778	9,378	14,781	8,056
Apr 11-17	-	11,800	9,300	14,733	8,092
Apr 18-24	-	11,816	9,373	14,741	8,146
4. Compensation (1-2), (Bht/ton)					
Mar 21-27	2,762	2,105	1,372	-	2,533
Mar 28 - Apr 3	2,281	2,490	1,564	-	2,690
Apr 4-10	-	2,522	2,122	-	2,944
Apr 11-17	-	2,500	2,200	-	2,908
Apr 18-24	-	2,484	2,127	-	2,854
5. Market prices (Bht/ton)					
Mar 21-27	12,600	12,500	9,700	15,750	8,100
Mar 28 - Apr 3	12,600	12,250	9,300	15,750	8,150
Apr 4-10	12,700	12,500	9,300	16,250	8,150
Apr 11-17	12,825	12,000	9,100	16,250	8,150
Apr 18-24 ^g	12,750	12,000	8,800	16,250	8,150

Note:

^a Cabinet approved on March 8, 2010 to raise eligible tonnage to 30 tons/household for MY2010/11 off-season crop

^b Starting March 8, 2010 the benchmark prices will be published on a weekly basis instead of twice a month on the 1st and 16th, based on average wholesale prices of last 15 days in Bangkok. The prices are set by the Subcommittee on Benchmark Price Determination, chaired by the Permanent Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce.

^c Starting Apr. 26, 2010 the benchmark prices will be based on average wholesale price of last week in Bangkok.

^d The insured prices of MY2009/10 second-crop Rathum Fragrant rice were revised up from 10,000 baht/MT in MY2009/10 main-crop price insurance scheme, effective Mar. 16, 2010. In addition, the insured prices of MY2010/11 season-crop Rathum Fragrant rice were revised up again to 11,500 baht/ton, effective Mar. 16, 2011. Also, those of white rice were raised from 10,000 baht/ton to 11,000 baht/ton, and glutinous rice from 9,500 baht/ton to 10,000 baht/ton.

^e The benchmark prices of fragrant rice and Provincial fragrant rice are for MY2010/11 main crop.

^f As of Apr. 18, 2011

Figure 1: Comparison of market price, insurance price, and benchmark price



Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for April 11-17, 2011 totaled 97,067 tons, down 123,925 tons from the previous week, and down 73,539 tons from the four week moving average of 170,606 tons. Exports of white rice and parboiled rice during January 1 – April 17, 2011 totaled 2,860,012 tons, up 61.2 percent from 1,774,082 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during January 1 – April 7, 2011 amounted to 3,229,381 tons, up 41.8 percent from 2,277,982 tons in the previous year.

Table 3: Weekly rice exports (excluding fragrant rice)					
WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK.AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Feb 6	197,142	185,472	932	620	50.4
Feb 13	214,204	189,387	1,147	746	53.6
Feb 20	188,985	191,778	1,336	880	51.8
Feb 27	187,469	196,950	1,523	1,032	47.6
Mar 6	235,443	206,525	1,759	1,171	50.2
Mar 13	232,186	211,021	1,991	1,288	54.6
Mar 20	186,887	210,496	2,178	1,409	54.5
Mar 27	190,244	211,190	2,368	1,501	57.7
Apr 3	174,121	195,860	2,542	1,601	58.8
Apr 10	220,993	193,061	2,763	1,708	61.7
Apr 17	97,067	170,606	2,860	1,774	61.2
<i>Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/REK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.</i>					
Source: Board of Trade of Thailand					

Table 4: Weekly private registered rice export sales			
Movement (MT)	Apr. 4-8 (Revised)	Mar. 28 - Apr. 1 (Preliminary)	Apr. 11-15
Weekly sales	216,192	196,886	N.A.
4 week sum	864,288	803,136	N.A.
4 week mov. avg.	216,072	200,784	N.A.
Year-to-date sales	2,647,014	2,843,900	N.A.

End of report.